

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175389

FOL REPEAT GENEVA 5497 SENT ACTION SECSTATE JUL 12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 5497

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: UNHCR APPEAL FOR RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR
REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA

REF: STATE 164771

1. MISSION CONTACTED UNHCR PER REFTTEL AND FOUND THAT IO
DATE RESPONSE TO APPEAL FOR RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN
ARGENTINA LESS THAN OVERWHELMING.
2. NORWAY HAS RESPONDED AND PROMISES TO TAKE 50 REFUGEES.
SWITZERLAND, BEFORE APPEAL WAS MADE, OFFERED TO TAKE
UNSPECIFIED NUMBER. DETAILS FOR THIS ARRANGEMENT ARE
CURRENTLY BEING WORKED OUT IN ARGENTINA.
3. FRANCE AND DENMARK, WHILE NOT RESPONDING TO THIS
SPECIFIC APPEAL, CONTINUE, AS IN THE PAST, TO TAKE URGENT CASES
AND THOSE WHOSE LIVES MAY BE IN DANGER.

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4. UNHCR OFFICIAL SAID HE EXPECTS FAVORABLE REPLY FROM
AUSTRALIA, UK, BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS BUT REQUESTED

THAT HIS SPECULATION NOT REPEAT NOT BE MADE PUBLIC.

5. CANADA AND SWEDEN HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO APPEAL. HOWEVER, THESE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE TAKEN HIGHEST NUMBER OF REFUGEES IN PAST AND IT IS EXPECTED THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE AS MANY AS POSSIBLE.

6. IN LATIN AMERICA, CUBA HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT 12 FAMILIES. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF THIS WAS A DECISION MADE IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE APPEAL. PANAMA AND COLOMBIA ARE STUDYING THE REQUEST. EQUADOR'S REPLY IS ENIGMATIC, SAYING THAT GOE WANTS ONLY CASES WITH SUFFICIENT BACKGROUND. COSTA RICA HAS SAID NO TO THE APPEAL AT THIS TIME.

7. UNHCR WILL FOLLOW-UP APPEAL WITH COMMUNICATIONS TO FIELD REPS ASKING THAT THEY PRESS GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER RESETTLEMENT OF THE REFUGEES.DALE

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